

Religious Studies

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The Department of Religious Studies offers courses about the teachings and practices of the world's major religions from an academic perspective. Courses focus on the history and philosophy of religions including their origins, sacred texts, rituals and practices, beliefs, and subgroups. The courses provide a broad understanding of the nature and role of religion in the world's many cultures, present and past, for students in all fields, as well as integrated programs for majors in religious studies.

The department annually sponsors two programs, the Ira E. Gaston Lecture in Christianity and the Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in Asian Religion, which bring eminent scholars to campus for lectures and seminars.

Preparation

The best high school or community college preparation for an undergraduate program in religious studies is a good general background in social science and the humanities.

Careers

An undergraduate major in religious studies can lead to graduate programs in religious studies—either academic or professional—as well as other related areas of graduate studies such as history, sociology, folklore, and various area studies (e.g., Middle East studies, East Asian languages and literatures).

Students with a bachelor of arts in religious studies have had success in various professional fields such as religion, journalism, social work, education, business, and law.

Graduate Studies

In the absence of a graduate program, students may work with faculty members from religious studies as well as other university departments toward an interdisciplinary studies: individualized program master's degree (MA or MS) focusing on religious studies, offered through the Graduate School. Information is available in the **Graduate School** section of this catalog.

Advanced Degrees in Other Departments

Faculty members in other departments may have a specialty or interest in the study of religion. Students interested in an advanced degree in these areas should apply for admission to graduate study in the relevant department. Prior contact with the faculty member is encouraged. The available degrees, faculty members, and area of specialty are listed below as a guide.

Department	Degree(s)	Specialty	Faculty
Anthropology	PhD (general anthropology MA presupposed)	Comparative religions, religion and symbol in particular cultures	Aletta Biersack, Carol T. Silverman
Asian Studies	MA	Buddhism in premodern Japan East Asian religions	Andrew E. Goble (history) Mark Unno (religious studies)
		Religion and thought in premodern China	Ina Asim (history)
Classics	MA	Classical civilization, ancient philosophy and religions in or related to ancient Greece and Rome	Jeffrey M. Hurwit (art history), Mary K. Jaeger (classics), Steven Shankman (English), Malcolm Wilson (classics)
Folklore	MA		Carol T. Silverman (anthropology), Daniel N. Wojcik (English)
History	MA, PhD	Reformation	David M. Luebke
History of Art and Architecture	MA, PhD	Buddhist art Japanese art	Charles H. Lachman Akiko Walley

Faculty

Faten Arfaoui, instructor (Arabic). BA, 2006, Ibn Charaf; MA, 2010, 2012, Texas Tech. (2014)

Judith R. Baskin, Philip H. Knight Professor. See **Judaic Studies**.

Frederick Colby, associate professor (Islam). BA, 1991, Haverford College; MA, 1995, Chicago; PhD, 2002, Duke. (2008)

Hanan Elsherif, senior instructor (Arabic). BA, 1993, MA, 2002, PhD, 2009, Minia. (2011)

Deborah A. Green, associate professor. See **Judaic Studies**.

Luke Habberstad, assistant professor. BA, 2003, Yale; MA, 2007, PhD, 2014, California, Berkeley. (2014)

David Hollenberg, associate professor (Arabic). BA, 1990, Wesleyan; MA, 1996, California, Santa Barbara; PhD, 2006, Pennsylvania. (2010)

Anne Kreps, assistant professor (biblical studies, history of Christianity). BA, 2003, Michigan; MA, 2005, California, Berkeley; PhD, 2013, Michigan. (2016)

Jeffrey Schroeder, assistant professor (religion and modern Asia). BA, 2005, MA, 2009, Reed; MA, 2009, Duke; PhD, 2015, Duke. (2017)

Stephen J. Shoemaker, professor (history of Christianity). BA, 1991, Emory; MA, 1994, PhD, 1997, Duke. (2000)

Mark T. Unno, associate professor (East Asian religions, Buddhism). BA, 1987, Oberlin; MA, 1991, PhD, 1994, Stanford. (2000)

Emeriti

Hee-Jin Kim, professor emeritus. BA, 1957, MA, 1958, California, Berkeley; PhD, 1966, Claremont. (1973)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

Participating

Andrew E. Goble, history

Charles H. Lachman, history of art and architecture

Elizabeth Reis, women's and gender studies

Akiko Walley, history of art and architecture

Anita M. Weiss, international studies

Daniel N. Wojcik, English

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

A bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of science (BS) are degrees offered. A minor is also offered in religious studies and Arabic studies. Courses used to satisfy major and minor requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with a mid-C or better.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
REL 101–102	World Religions	8
Electives in religious studies or additional courses		8
Upper-division religious studies courses		16
Upper-division courses (see Additional Courses list)		12
Total Credits		44

Additional Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Folklore		
FLR 411/511	Folklore and Religion	4
FLR 483/583	Folklore and Mythology of the British Isles	4
History		
HIST 320	High Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 321	Late Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 322	The Crusades	4
HIST 358	American Jewish History	4
HIST 441/541	16th-Century European Reformations	4
HIST 498/598	Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic]	4
History of Art and Architecture		
ARH 387	Chinese Buddhist Art	4
International Studies		

INTL 423/523	Development and the Muslim World	4
Judaic Studies		
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
JDST 213	The Jewish Encounter with Modernity	4
Philosophy		
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Religion	4
Sociology		
SOC 461/561	Sociology of Religion	4

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
REL 101–102	World Religions	8
Electives in religious studies or additional courses		8
Upper-division religious studies courses		16
Upper-division courses (see Additional Courses list)		12
Total Credits		44

Additional Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Folklore		
FLR 411/511	Folklore and Religion	4
FLR 483/583	Folklore and Mythology of the British Isles	4
History		
HIST 320	High Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 321	Late Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 322	The Crusades	4
HIST 358	American Jewish History	4
HIST 441/541	16th-Century European Reformations	4
HIST 498/598	Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic]	4
History of Art and Architecture		
ARH 387	Chinese Buddhist Art	4
International Studies		
INTL 423/523	Development and the Muslim World	4
Judaic Studies		
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
JDST 213	The Jewish Encounter with Modernity	4
Philosophy		
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Religion	4
Sociology		
SOC 461/561	Sociology of Religion	4

Honors in Religious Studies

Requirements for a degree with honors in religious studies typically include the following:

1. Satisfaction of the requirements for a major
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.80 in courses taken to satisfy the major requirements
3. Formal approval of the department

The candidate for honors shall request approval no later than the second week of fall term in the senior year. Students are strongly encouraged to

meet with the undergraduate advisor before applying. Application forms are available in the department office.

A faculty committee supervises the honors thesis project. Candidates typically register for 3 credits of Research: [Topic] (REL 401) for both fall and winter terms of the senior year to prepare for writing the thesis. Contingent on satisfactory progress, the candidate then enrolls for 4 credits of Thesis (REL 403) spring term. A first draft of the thesis must be submitted six weeks before the end of spring term and the final draft two weeks after that.

Religious Studies Minor Requirements

REL 101	World Religions: Asian Traditions	4
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	4
Religious studies courses		8
Upper-division religious studies courses		8
Total Credits		24

Arabic Studies Minor Requirements

Category I: Third-Year Arabic

ARB 301–303	Language and Culture	12
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Category II: Advanced Arabic

ARB 331	Reading Classical Arabic	4
ARB 431		4

Category III: Arabic Culture and Society

An elective from the following list:		4
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ARB 199	Special Studies: [Topic]	
COLT 370	Comparative Comics	
COLT 461	Studies in Contemporary Theory: [Topic] (Colonialism and Postcolonial Theory)	
COLT 462	Cultural Intersections: [Topic] (Orientalism)	
COLT 470	Studies in Identity: [Topic] (Multiculturalism and Empire)	
GEOG 209	Geography of the Middle East and North Africa	
HIST 199	Special Studies: [Topic] (The Iraq War; Islamic Civilization I or II; Islam in the Modern World)	
HIST 322	The Crusades	
HIST 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (The Iraq War)	
INTL 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Islam and Global Forces)	
INTL 407	Seminar: [Topic] (Militant Islam; Middle Eastern Politics; Development and Social Change in the Middle East)	
INTL 423	Development and the Muslim World	
J 467	Issues in International Communication: [Topic] (The Arab World and the Media)	
JDST 340	Israelis and Palestinians	
PS 399	Special Studies: [Topic] (Egypt; Politics of the Middle East)	
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	
REL 233	Introduction to Islam	
REL 324–325	History of Eastern Christianity	
REL 335	Introduction to the Qur'an	

REL 432	Islamic Mysticism: [Topic]
REL 435	Advanced Study of the Qur'an: [Topic]
TA 472	Multicultural Theater: [Topic] (Arab American Theater)

Total Credits **24**

Modified Requirements for Students with Prior Literacy in Arabic

Students who already have skills that satisfy the equivalent of the ARB 301–303 third-year sequence—whether from native proficiency, study abroad, or courses from another university—may choose to test out of one or more of these courses by passing a proficiency examination, administered by the UO Testing Center, designed to demonstrate basic literacy in Arabic. If students wish to transfer their third-year Arabic courses from other universities or from overseas study, they may do so contingent on the successful completion of an examination at the appropriate level, to ensure proper placement.

Students who pass the proficiency exam must still complete 24 credits for the minor in Arabic studies, including at least 12 from among Category II courses and up to 12 from among Category III electives.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
REL 101	World Religions: Asian Traditions (When available, REL 101 is offered as a FIG)	4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
Elective course		4	
Credits		17	
Winter			
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	4	
WR 122	College Composition II or WR 123 or College Composition III	4	
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4	
Credits		17	
Spring			
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
General education course in arts and letters		4	
General education course in science		4	
General education course in social science		4	
Credits		17	
Total Credits		51	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
	First term of second-year second-language sequence	4	
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
Credits		16	
Winter			
	Second term of second-year second-language sequence	4	
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course in science	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
Credits		16	
Spring			
	Third term of second-year second-language sequence	4	
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course in science	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
Credits		16	
Total Credits		48	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
	Upper-division course with REL subject code	4	
	Upper-division elective course	4	
	General education course in science	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
Credits		16	
Winter			
	Upper-division course with REL subject code	4	
	Upper-division elective course	4	
	Elective courses	8	
Credits		16	
Spring			
	Upper-division course with REL subject code	4	
	Upper-division elective course	4	
	Elective courses	8	
Credits		16	
Total Credits		48	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
	Upper-division course with REL subject code	4	
	Elective courses	8	
Credits		12	
Winter			
	Elective courses	12	
Credits		12	

Elective courses	12
Credits	12
Total Credits	36

Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
REL 101	World Religions: Asian Traditions	4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
MATH 105	University Mathematics I	4	
	or College Algebra		
	MATH 111		
	Elective course	4	
Credits		16	
Winter			
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	4	
MATH 106	University Mathematics II	4	
	or Elementary Functions		
	MATH 112		
WR 122	College Composition II	4	
	or WR 123 or College Composition III		
	General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement	4	
Credits		16	
Spring			
MATH 107	University Mathematics III	4	
	or Fundamentals of Elementary Mathematics II		
	MATH 212		
	General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement	4	
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course in science	4	
Credits		16	
Total Credits		48	
Second Year			
Fall			
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement	4	
	General education course in science	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
Credits		16	
Winter			
	General education course in arts and letters	4	
	General education course in science	4	
	General education course in social science	4	
	Elective course	4	
Credits		16	

Spring

General education course in arts and letters	4
General education course in science	4
General education course in social science	4
Elective course	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	48

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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Third Year

Fall

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
Upper-division elective course	4
General education course in social science	4
Elective course	4
Credits	16

Winter

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
Upper-division elective course	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16

Spring

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
Upper-division elective course	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	16
Total Credits	48

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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Fourth Year

Fall

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
Elective courses	8
Credits	12

Winter

Elective courses	12
Credits	12

Spring

Elective courses	12
Credits	12
Total Credits	36